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STATED MEETING, MARCH, 8, 1842.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Six specimens of Corallines and Crustacea, from the secondary strata of Faxoe in Denmark. Teeth of *Ichthyosaurus*, *Hybodus* and *Acrodus*, from the Lias of Lyme Regis, England. Scales of Fishes from Purbeck beds, Swanage, England. *Terebratulæ* from the red chalk of Lincolnshire, England, and an *Orthocera*, from Kinnekulla, Sweden. All presented by S. G. Morton, M. D.

The following collection of valuable shells, chiefly from the Phillippine Isles, was presented by Dr. Goddard, viz.

Venus castrensis, *V. litterata*. *Corbis fimbriata*. *Tellina latirostra*. *Pecten pallium*. *Helix galactites*, *H. pulcherrima*, *H. annulata*, *H. Valenciana*, *H. Roissiana* Var. and 7 other species. *Caracolla Listeri*. *Bulimus ovoideus*, *B. chrysalidæformis*, *B. Hindorensis*, *B. coccineus*, and 5 other species. *Auricula Judæ*, *A. scarabæus*. *Pupina* —sp.? *Cyclostoma Indica*, and two other species. *Ampullaria ovata*. *Turbo petholatus*. *Monodonta labeo*. *Scalaria pretiosa*. *Nerita Ascensionis*, *N. polita*. *Natica spadicea*, *N. chinensis*, *N. mamilla*, *N. melanostoma*. *Neritina*. *Bulla naucum*, *B. ampulla*.

Ovula oviformis, *Pirena terebralis*. *Dolium perdix*. *Triton anus*, *T. clavator*. *Ranella ranina*. *Ricinula horrida*. *Strombus canarium*, *S. minutus*. *Cancellaria senticosa*. *Cerithium vertagus*. *Terebra dimidiata*, *T. crenulata*. *Nassa arcularia*. *Cassis vibex*. *Cypræa eburnea*. *Mitra*

episcopalis, *M. retusa*, *M. corrugata*, *M. aurantiaca*, *M. melongena*.

Oliva carneola. *Conus capitaneus*, *C. stercus muscarum*, *C. raphanus*, *C. magus*. *Phasianella angulata*. *Patella vulgata*.

Two specimens of Fossils from Gloucester county, N. Jersey, a *Sphiræna* ? and a *Buccinum*. Presented by Dr. W. Blanding.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS.—The chairman read a memoir from Dr. A. Clapp of New Albany, Indiana, on the Limestone formation of that district. Referred to a committee consisting of Mr. Conrad, Prof. Rogers and Mr. Vanuxem.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS.—Prof. Johnson presented for inspection, a portion of the keelson of the frigate *Raritan*, in a state of dry rot. This vessel was still on the stocks at the Philadelphia Navy Yard ; her building having been commenced at least 20 years since. She had been salted. Her lower timbers, previous to the commencement of repairs, were generally in the same condition as the portion exhibited.

Also a sample of oak joist from the old Legislative Hall, built at Chester, Pennsylvania, in 1682. Decay had not yet commenced in this wood, owing probably to its complete protection from the action of moisture ; whereas in the other case, the wood was constantly subjected to the alternate action of dryness and moisture.

Professor Johnson also alluded to the hardening influence of water on oak wood when long submerged.

Dr. Chaloner stated that he had in his possession specimens of oak timber turned into various forms, which had been derived from a vessel, (the *Lyons* frigate,) submerged in the river Delaware, since the period of the Revolution, and which had acquired almost the hardness of iron.

Professor Johnson then exhibited samples of residua from

a number of Anthracite and Bituminous coals of Europe and this country, on which he had experimented with a view of ascertaining the relative proportions in each, of volatile matter, earthy matter, and carbon. The experiments were performed on all in a similar manner, viz. by exposing the coal to a red heat, raised as rapidly as possible. As the moisture, however, is in such cases brought in contact with carbon at a high temperature, it may, by decomposition, cause some of the carbon to be carried off, and thus raise the estimate of the volatile matter above what it would be, if more slowly conducted. Incineration was conducted in a muffle, at a high and long continued temperature.

The following are the results of the analysis of some of these coals :

	Vol. matter. per cent.	Ashes.	Carbon.
Newcastle coal,	29.	.44	70.56
Sydney,	43.5	1.50	55.
Liverpool,	37.9	.72	61.38
Staffordshire,	47.5	1.86	50.64
Welsh,	4.4	4.1	91.5
Pictou,	30.7	8.	61.3
Richmond,	15.1	24.74	60.16
Do. (another sample,)	17.3	17.08	65.62
Rhode Island,	13.1	11.26	75.64
Fallstown, (Beaver river,)	35.8	6.42	57.76
Beaver Meadow (spheroidal coal,)	9.	5.50	85.5
Shamokin,	9.1	5.84	85.06
Wilkesbarre,	8.6	11.66	79.74
Beaver Meadow, (Piatt tract,)	7.9	6.	86.1

Dr. Chalonier referred to the question agitated of late among medical men, whether muscular action could excite electricity, and cited the case of a lady, described in Silliman's Journal; a similar instance had come under his own notice in this city.

As connected with this subject, Professor Johnson mentioned that some years since, he had made experiments with a delicate magnet, in suspension, and discovered that by bringing the hands nearly in contact with each other, and then carefully withdrawing them in opposite directions, the fingers of the different hands, when approximated to the magnet, produced different effects.

BUSINESS BY SPECIAL RESOLUTION.

By special permission, the reports of the following committees were read and adopted.

The report of the committee on Dr. Morton's paper on the so-called Pigmy race of the Valley of the Mississippi, and also his paper on the ancient Peruvian race : in favour of publication.

The report of the committee on Prof. Johnson's paper entitled "Remarks on the relation between the Coal of South Wales and some Pennsylvania Anthracites;" and also his "Description of an apparatus illustrative of the laws of Chemical Combination, and of the combining volumes of gaseous substances;" in favour of publication.

Dr. Elwyn offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved,—That the Committee of Publication be authorised to present to Charles Lyell, Esq., Corresponding member, the sixth volume of the Journal of the Academy.